

Wan Yeung (Ngai Wan Yeung)

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Education

- 2024 Ph.D., Ethnomusicology (with Specialization of Music and Anthropology), University of California, Los Angeles
Dissertation: “Becoming One Country, One System: Cantonese Opera in Post-Colonial Hong Kong”
Advisor: Helen Rees
- 2017 M.A., Music (Ethnomusicology), Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT
Thesis: “Hong Kong Improv: *Huqin* and *Pipa* in Cantonese Operatic Songs, *Naamyam*, and Instrumental Music”
Advisor: Su Zheng
- 2012 B.Music, *summa cum laude*, Music Performance (Guitar), University of California, Irvine, with certificate in Ethnomusicology

Academic Honors and Awards

- 2025–26 UCLA Institute of American Cultures Research Grant
- 2024 UCLA Dean’s Medal
- 2023–24 UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship
- 2019–20 Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship
- 2019 UCLA Dissertation Fieldwork Fellowship for International Studies
- 2019 Hiroshi Wagatsuma Graduate Fellowship
- 2019 UCLA Jorge Estrada Scholarship
- 2018–21 UCLA Herb Alpert Foundation Scholarship
- 2018 UCLA-National Taiwan Normal University Taiwan Initiative Fellowship
- 2017–18 UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music Fellowship
- 2015–17 Wesleyan University Graduate Assistantship
- 2010–12 UC Irvine Regents Scholarship
- 2010–11 Edna Helen Beach Scholarship

Publications

- in preparation* “Echoes Across the Diaspora: The Circulation of Cantonese Opera LPs and Cultural Identity in Mid-20th-Century Americas” (forthcoming in *Canto Aiiieeeee! Cantonese-American Heritage and its Impact on Literature, Drama, Martial Arts, and Popular Culture*, edited by Shelley Fisher Fishkin, King-Kok Cheung, Belinda Kong, Selina Lai-Henderson, Bo Wah Leung, and Sean Metzger).
- 2021 Review of “Stephen Jones: A Blog” (multi-media resource on Chinese music, world music, and Western art music). *Yearbook for Traditional Music* 53: 211–213.

Conference Presentations

- 2025 “Echoes Across Diaspora: The Circulation of Cantonese Opera LPs and Cultural Identity in the Mid-20th-Century Americas.” Annual Meeting of the Southern California and Hawai’i Chapter of the Society of Ethnomusicology, Los Angeles, CA.

- 2019 “‘Authentic’ Nanguan in Taiwan: Modern-Day Traditional Music Development.” Annual Meeting of the Southern California and Hawai‘i Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Santa Barbara, CA.
- 2018a “‘Who Has Yet to Speak Out?’: Protest Songs during Hong Kong’s Umbrella Revolution.” 63rd Annual Meeting of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Albuquerque, NM.
- 2018b “Amateur Practices of Cantonese Music in the Era of Music Professionalism.” Sixth Symposium of the Study Group on Musics of East Asia, International Council for Traditional Music, Seoul, Republic of Korea.
- 2018c “Robert Garfias and UCLA Ethnomusicology.” “Oral Histories of UCLA Ethnomusicology” roundtable, Annual Meeting of the Southern California and Hawai‘i Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Pomona, CA.

Invited Lectures

- 2019a “Hatsune Miku as Modern Voice Synthesizer.” Lecture for course “Music and Media,” taught by William Matczynski, UCLA, July 24.
- 2019b “History of Pipa Music.” Lecture-demonstration for course “Art of Listening,” taught by Benjamin Court, UCLA, February 20.
- 2018a “Introduction to Chinese Instrumental Music.” Lecture-demonstration for course “Musical Cultures of the World (Asia),” taught by Katherine Lee, co-presented with Mei-Chen Chen, UCLA, April 26.
- 2018b “Pipa Finger Techniques and Notations.” Lecture-demonstration for course “Music in China,” taught by Helen Rees, UCLA, April 10.
- 2018c “Modernized Traditional Music in China.” Lecture-demonstration for course “Music from a Global Perspective,” taught by Ric Alviso, co-presented with Mei-Chen Chen, California State University, Northridge, March 6.
- 2018d “Music in China.” Lecture-demonstration for course “Introduction to World Music Cultures,” taught by Nolan Warden, co-presented with Mei-Chen Chen, Loyola Marymount University, February 26.
- 2018e “Modern Chinese Musical Ensembles and Instruments.” Lecture-demonstration at Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, co-presented with Mei-Chen Chen, January 10.
- 2017 “Improvisation or Variation: Music of the Modern *Pipa*.” Guest Lecture for course “Improvisation in Cross-Cultural Perspective,” taught by Eric Charry, Wesleyan University, April 7.

Performance Experience

Chinese Music

24 years of experience on pipa, 3 years on zhongruan and liuqin, 2 years on guzheng (all plucked string instruments)

Solo and group performances in Hong Kong, mainland China, and major U.S. cities including Los Angeles, Boston, New York City, and Seattle

Other

Western classical guitar, 4 years

Javanese gamelan, 2 years

North Indian tabla drums, 1 year

South Indian Carnatic music rhythmic pattern solkattu, 1 year

Balinese gamelan, 1 year

Performance Highlights

2025	Pipa soloist at the “World of the Terracotta Warriors: New Archaeological Discoveries in Shaanxi in the 21st Century” Exhibition, Opening Gala, Bowers Museum
2017	Member of Javanese gamelan at “Islands: The Lost History of the Treaty That Changed the World,” Indonesian Consulate-General, New York
2016	Pipa soloist for Zhou Long’s “The Farewell, for Erhu, Pipa, and Chamber Ensemble,” Connecticut premiere, Memorial Chapel, Wesleyan University
2016	Member of Javanese gamelan for “Javanese Shadow-Play: Bima’s Quest for Enlightenment,” co-presented by Smithsonian Institution, Embassy of the Republic of Indonesia, George Washington University, and the Society for Ethnomusicology
2016	Member of Javanese gamelan for “Traditions in Transition: Intangible Cultural Heritage in South and Southeast Asia Symposium” at Hofstra University
2010	Gold Medal at 2010 Chinese Instrument International Competition, San Jose
2007	First-place pipa soloist, 59 th Hong Kong Schools Music Festival
2006	Winner of Hong Kong Student Chinese Instrumentalists’ Competition

Teaching Experience

2022	As Teaching Fellow, Master of Social Science, University of California, Los Angeles Graduate Seminar: “Social Science Research and Perspectives” (for Prof. David Shorter, supporting class discussion, evaluating papers and presentations)
2019	As Instructor, Department of Ethnomusicology, University of California, Los Angeles “Global Pop” (designing course and preparing course materials, lecturing, and evaluating papers and exams)
2018–23	As Teaching Fellow, Department of Ethnomusicology, University of California, Los Angeles “Music Around the World” (for Prof. Helen Rees, leading discussion sections, evaluating papers and exams) “African American Musical Heritage” (for Prof. Cheryl Keyes, leading discussion sections, evaluating papers) “Music and Media” (for Prof. Timothy D. Taylor, leading discussion sections, evaluating papers and exams) “Global Pop” (for Prof. Ben Doleac, leading discussion sections, evaluating papers)
2015–17	As Teaching Assistant, Department of Music, Wesleyan University Wesleyan Chinese Music Ensemble (conducting and teaching Chinese plucked instruments) “Theory and Analysis” (for Prof. Jane Alden, evaluating assignments on Western music theory) “Music and Modernity in China, Japan and Korea” (for Prof. Su Zheng, assisting with administrative tasks and explaining challenging concepts to students at undergraduate level)
2005–15	Private instruction in pipa and guitar

Other Professional Experience

- 2025 Principal Investigator, UCLA Asian American Studies Center
 Designed research framework to study mental health and cultural participation
 Observing cultural activities to document social and emotional engagement
 Conducting interviews and focus groups with immigrant communities
- 2024–25 Archive Assistant, UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive
 Developed research design for archival analysis of diaspora networks
 Extracting and coding metadata from 3,000+ archival materials
 Conducting thematic and longitudinal analysis on community correspondence
 Preparing digitized material for future research access and presentation
- 2019–24 Graduate Research Assistant, UCLA Ethnomusicology Archive
 Processing new collections of archival materials
 Rearranging and updating archival materials
 Labeling archival materials
 Updating and inputting new materials into archive catalogue
- 2018 Musical Director of “Year of The Dog Celebration” at Bowers Museum, Santa Ana
- 2017 Library Assistant at Wesleyan University
 Recording and videotaping concerts
 Designing posters using Adobe Photoshop
 Researching publications on Chinese music for library acquisition
- 2014–15 Translation of exhibition booklets (Chinese to English)
The Mystery Bronzes of Sanxingdui, by Liu Ke, Bowers Museum, Santa Ana, CA, 2014
The Dedicated Clay Army: Terracotta Warriors and Horses, by Dong Jing, Bowers Museum, Santa Ana, CA, 2015
- 2014 Extracurricular Teacher at Apleichau St. Peter’s Catholic Primary School, Hong Kong:
 Teaching phonics and reading skills for P1 – P2 (5–7-year-olds)
- 2012–13 Assistant to Chair of Board at Bowers Museum, Santa Ana
 Communicating with media and preparing for press conferences
 Interpretation and document translation
 Receiving officials and dignitaries (from China and the USA)

Service

- 2019– “Sisters Storytime” Community Activism Collaboration with Los Angeles Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence
- 2019–21 Head Steward of UAW 2865 UCLA Student-Workers Union
- 2018–23 Departmental Steward of UAW 2865 UCLA Student-Workers Union
- 2017–19 Graduate Representative on UCLA Graduate Students Housing Oversight Committee
- 2017–24 Founding committee member of Hong Kong Graduate Student Association at UCLA
- 2017–23 Member of editorial board, *Ethnomusicology Review* (online journal of the UCLA Ethnomusicology Graduate Students Organization)
- 2014–17 Volunteer at Hong Kong AIDS Foundation
- 2005–06 Chairman of Hong Kong King’s College Chinese Orchestra
- 2001–03 Committee member of Red Cross Youth Unit 21, Hong Kong

Languages

Cantonese: native fluency in all skills
English: near-native fluency in all skills
Mandarin: near-native fluency in all skills
Taiwanese: competent in all skills

Professional Memberships

Association for Chinese Music Research
International Council for Traditional Music
Society for Asian Music
Society for Ethnomusicology